



CDC FluView Weekly Report

Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza Hospitalizations

Application Quick Reference Guide - October 2015

Introduction

This Quick Reference Guide provides guidance on using the FluView web application and gives an overview of the influenza hospitalization surveillance network (FluSurv-NET).

This application is part of the CDC FluView report, which provides weekly information about the United States Influenza season. This report contains information about cases and laboratory results reported through various systems and includes indicators such as influenza-like illness (ILI) activity. This application was developed to address the Influenza Division's priorities regarding enhanced communication with clinicians, scientists, and the general public. The CDC FluView report can be accessed at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>.

About the Data

The source data for influenza hospitalizations application originates from two influenza surveillance networks:

The Emerging Infections Program (EIP) has conducted ongoing population-based influenza-hospitalization surveillance since the 2003-2004 season. EIP sites include counties within CA, CO, CT, GA, MD, MN, NM, NY, OR, TN.

The Influenza Hospitalization Surveillance Project (IHSP) began during the 2009-2010 season to enhance surveillance during the 2009 H1N1 Pandemic. IHSP sites included counties within IA, ID, MI, OK and SD during 2009-2010 season; ID, MI, OH, OK, RI, and UT during the 2010-2011 season; MI, OH, RI, and UT during the 2011-2012 season; IA, MI, OH, RI, and UT during the 2012-2013 season; and MI, OH, and UT during the 2013-2014, 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 seasons.

Influenza Hospitalization Surveillance Network (FluSurv-NET) - FluSurv-NET encompasses both networks: EIP and IHSP. FluSurv-NET conducts population-based surveillance for laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations in children (persons younger than 18 years) and adults. The current network covers over 70 counties in the 10 Emerging Infections Program (EIP) states (CA, CO, CT, GA, MD, MN, NM, NY, OR, and TN) and three additional states (MI, OH, and UT). The network represents approximately 9% of US population (~27 million people).

Cases are identified by reviewing hospital laboratory and admission databases and infection control logs for patients hospitalized during the influenza season with a documented positive influenza test (i.e., viral culture, direct/indirect fluorescent antibody assay (DFA/IFA), rapid influenza diagnostic test (RIDT), or molecular assays including reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR)).

Data gathered are used to estimate age-specific cumulative and weekly hospitalization rates on a weekly basis, and describe characteristics of persons hospitalized with severe influenza illness. Laboratory-confirmation is dependent on clinician-ordered influenza testing. Therefore, the rates provided are likely to be underestimated as influenza-associated hospitalizations can be missed if influenza is not suspected and tested for.

Note: FluSurv-NET hospitalization data are preliminary and subject to change as more data become available. All incidence rates are unadjusted.

Accessing the FluView Web-based Application

All FluView applications are accessible by the public on the World Wide Web. To access the FluView laboratory-confirmed influenza hospitalizations web application, you will first need to open a web browser on your computer and go the following internet link:

<http://gis.cdc.gov/GRASP/Fluview/FluHospRates.html>.

Application requirements:

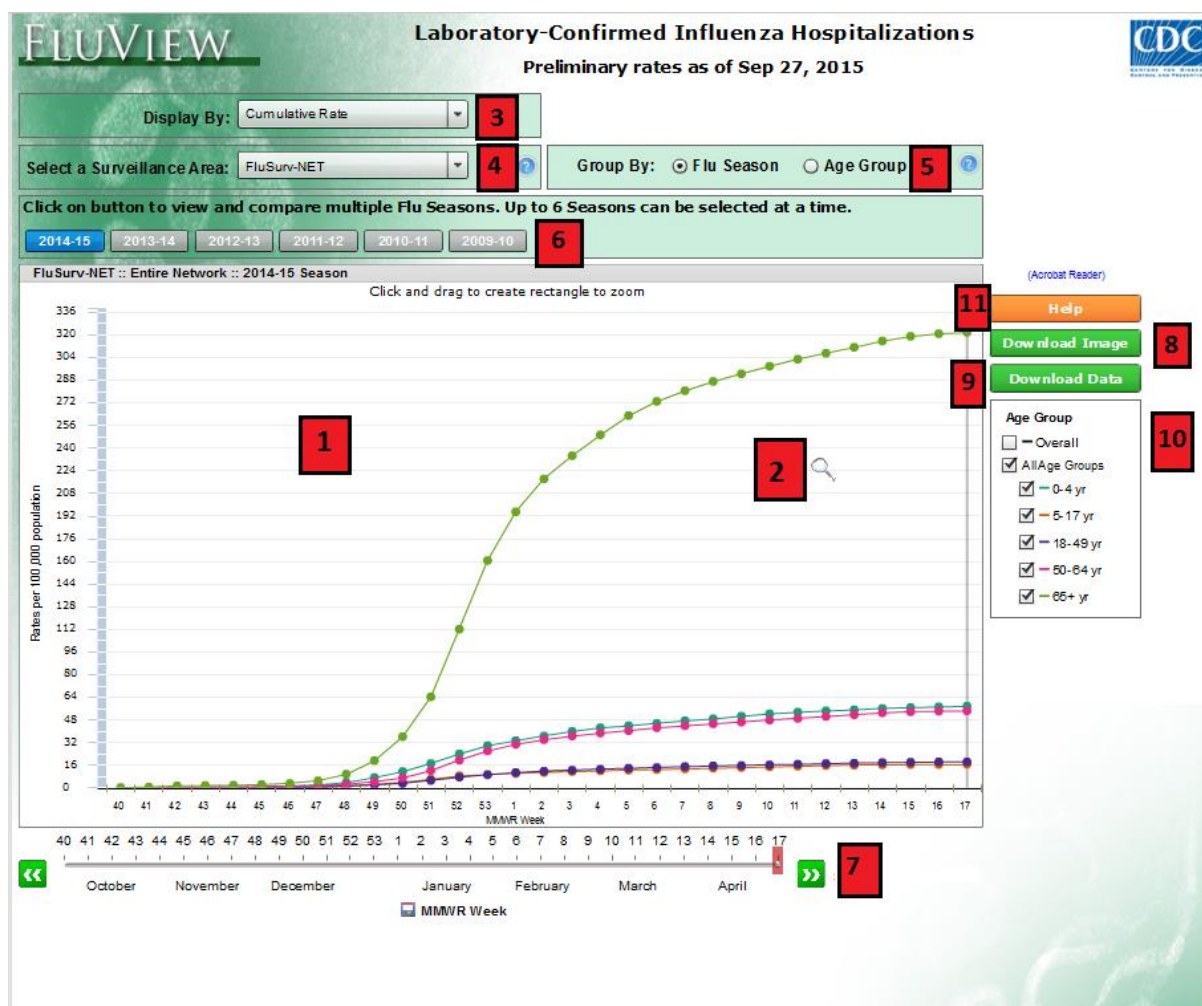
- Internet Browser
 - Windows Internet Explorer 7 or later
 - Google Chrome
 - Mozilla Firefox

- Adobe Flash plug-in for internet browsers. This plugin can be downloaded at <http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>.

Once the website is loaded, a disclaimer dialog box will appear. Please review the disclaimer for important reference information. Click “Ok” to continue the FluView web application. Clicking on Cancel will take you to the CDC FluView weekly Flu report home page - <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>.

Application Functions and Tool Overview

Below is an image of the default view of the current influenza season in laboratory-confirmed influenza hospitalizations web application. This interactive tool allows users to display and query information about laboratory-confirmed influenza hospitalizations by age group and influenza season. The descriptions for each tool function are listed below the application image.



1. **Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza Hospitalizations Graph** – This chart displays the cumulative and weekly unadjusted rates per 100,000 population of laboratory-confirmed influenza hospitalizations by the influenza season and age group(s) selected in the “Group By” section– see item 3.
2. **Zoom/Info Tool** – To zoom in on a particular area of the graph, hold down your mouse and drag a box around the area of interest. To see detailed information on the chart line, use your mouse to hover over a point on a line. If lines are overlapping, the tool will display information for all the overlapping points.
3. **Display By** – A single click on the drop down menu will reveal the listing of either Cumulative Rate or Weekly Rate. Cumulative Rate will display the preliminary unadjusted cumulative incidence rates for the selected surveillance area, season and/or age group. Weekly Rate will display the preliminary unadjusted weekly incidence rates for the selected surveillance area, season and/or age group.
4. **Surveillance Area** – A single click on the drop down menu will reveal the listing of the three surveillance networks. To select a specific area, select a state or a surveillance area network. The three influenza networks are: The Influenza Hospitalization Surveillance Network (FluSurv-NET), Emerging Infections Program (EIP), and Influenza Hospitalization Surveillance Project (IHSP).
5. **Group By** – The “Group By” radio buttons are categorized by the Flu Season and Age Group. Selecting the Flu Season radio button will display push buttons labeled with the Flu Seasons for during which surveillance was conducted. Selecting the Age Group radio button will display push buttons labeled with the age groups for which data are available. Selecting a particular push button will transform it from grey to blue and the data will be displayed in the graph.
6. **Chart Selection Tool** – The series of push buttons allow you to display multiple charts at one time. To enable the charts select the push buttons of interest. They which will transform from grey to blue as they become active and the corresponding data will be displayed in the graph below. A maximum of six charts can be displayed at once.
7. **Flu Week Slider Bar** – To see data for a specific MMWR week during influenza season, use the cursor to move slider button across the week numbers. A grey line will be displayed on the chart(s) to indicate the location of the selected MMWR week on each chart. The step push buttons with green and white arrow icons can also be used to move the slider from week to week. Select the “Show Data Window” to display the data at each selected point along the slider.
8. **Download Image Button** – To create a static image of the data displayed in your current view, click the “Download Image” push button. A file download dialog will appear with options to open, save, or discard (cancel) the currently displayed chart(s).

- 9. Download Data Button** – To create a copy of the data in your current view or to create your own custom dataset, click the “Download Data” push button. The Download Data dialog will appear with two options: download the data as shown in the graph (by selecting the first radio button) or create a custom download (by selecting the second radio button). Custom downloads allow you to select the Surveillance Area, Season and Age Group for which you would like to see the data. Once the data selection has been made, click the Download Data push button to open, save or discard the Microsoft Excel file.
- 10. Interactive Legend** – The interactive legend is enabled by a series of check marks. Check marks appear next to the selected options and will be displayed as lines on the graph.
- 11. Help** – The help menu provides a detailed overview and describes the full functionality of the FluView Web application.